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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,898	03/29/2004	Kazuhiro Ohkouchi	2004_0494	1097

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EXAMINER

VENKAT, JYOTHSNA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

DATE MAILED: 05/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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DETAILED ACTION

The examiner of this application is changed from James Spear to **Jyothsna Venkat**.

Receipt is acknowledged of IDS filed on 4/19/06 and 2/16/06 and remarks filed on 2/16/06. Claims 12-13 and 33 are pending in the application and the status of the application is as follows. The rejection of these claims under 102 over WO 98/46215 is withdrawn since the range claimed is not same to that disclosed in the patent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 90/46215 ('215).

The instant application is claiming a quickly disintegrating solid preparation comprising:

a. An active ingredient

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b. Sugar alcohol or saccharide with a mean particle diameter of 30-300 microns

c. Disintegrating agent (carmellose calcium, carboxymethylstarch sodium, croscarmellose sodium or crosspovidone)

d. Cellulose compound (crystalline cellulose, powder cellulose, low substituted hydroxy propyl cellulose or carmellose)

WO '218 teaches all the claimed ingredients in rapidly dissolving dosage form. See the abstract, see pages 4-5, see pages 7-9 for the active ingredients, and see page 17, lines 13-26 for claimed b. The mean particle taught by the document is within the claimed range. See paragraph bridging pages 17-18 for the various saccharide or sugar alcohols. See page 25 for wicking agent. Some of the agents are the species claimed under c as well as d. See the same page, lines 13-20 for povidone of claimed d. See examples and see specially where the document teaches using both c and d into the compositions.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prepare rapidly dosage forms using all the ingredients of WO document. One of ordinary skill in the art would have reasonable expectation of success that the claimed dosage form with ingredients would also dissolve rapidly since using ingredient c helps in transport moisture into the dosage form, and the use of ingredient b helps in the production of a hard, non-friable, directly compressible and rapidly dissolvable in-mouth dosage form. Absent a showing the criticality of the claimed range of the sugar alcohols, the claims are rendered prima facie obvious over WO document.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 90/46215 ('215) as applied to claims 12-13 above, and further in view of U. S. Patent 6,923,988 ('988).

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WO as applied above. The difference is WO document does not teach the claimed active ingredients. However patent '988 teaches solid carriers for improved delivery of active ingredients in pharmaceutical compositions. See the abstract, see col.s 4-8 for the active ingredients, see claim 29 for the claimed pioglitazone. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the claimed pioglitazone of patent into the compositions of WO document. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to use the specific active ingredient with the reasonable expectation of success that the compositions with the specific active ingredient would dissolve rapidly and also increase the bioavailability of the active ingredient. This is a prima facie case of obviousness.

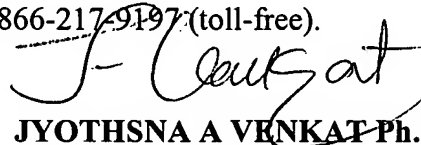
The obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 12-13 and 33 over patent 6,740,339 is maintained. Applicants request that this rejection be held in abeyance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JYOTHSNA A. VENKAT Ph. D whose telephone number is 571-272-0607. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30-7:30:1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THURMAN K. PAGE can be reached on 571-272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JYOTHSNA A VENKAT Ph. D
Primary Examiner
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